死に至る病

2

sygdommen til døden

[原作]
朝田 光

[作画]
瀬口たかひろ

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作画 瀬口たかひろ
原作 朝田 光

白泉社

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JETS COMICS

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

CHAPTER 10
SECRET FROM THE PAST

That room was being used for storage.
But ever since I was little, I tried to avoid it as much as possible.

I GOT THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE WAS SEALED IN THERE.
TO A TOY ?
WHO'D DO SOME-THING LIKE THIS ...

.....
ALL OF THE THINGS SCATTERED THROUGH-OUT THE ROOM
WERE MEMENTOS OF MY CHILD-HOOD.
BUT THEY WEREN'T NOSTALGIC.
IN FACT, I COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER THEM VERY WELL.
I HEARD THAT A PERSON'S MEMORIES ARE RESET AT THE AGE OF 3.
THAT WAS ALSO AROUND THE TIME I LOST MY PARENTS.

FROM THE HARD REALITY OF IT ALL!
MY SKETCH-BOOK?
I HAD TURNED AWAY ...
I KEPT ON LIVING BY AVOIDING THE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF MY PARENTS
THAT WERE SOMEWHERE IN MY HEART ...

I WANT TO SEE MOMMY AND DADDY.

MOMMY
DADDY
I'LL BE A GOOD GIRL SO PLEASE COME BACK SOON!

I... FELT THIS STRONGLY ABOUT MY PARENTS?
MY HEARTFELT FEELINGS TOWARD MY PARENTS WERE SPELLED OUT IN THE SKETCHBOOK
IN THE FRANTIC SCRIBBLES OF A CHILD LOOKING AT AN ALPHABET FOR REFERENCE
AND IN THE END MY FEELINGS WERE SEALED UP
ALONG WITH THE LAST SENTENCE.
I'LL DIE TOO AND GO SEE MOMMY AND DADDY

THAT CAN'T BE ...
DIE...?
DID I...?
THIS IS A SUICIDE LETTER.
I REMEM-BERED.
AND THEN,

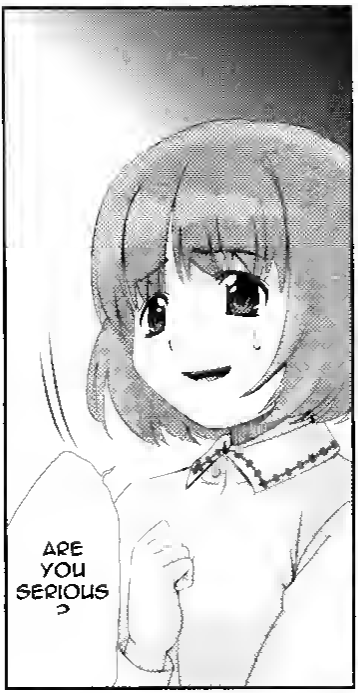
I REMEMBERED WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT ROOM ...
WHAT WAS TRUE ..
AND WHAT WAS A LIE ...!

I THOUGHT I'D GO TO HEAVEN AND SETTLE EVERYTHING...
HONEY ..!

AND THEN ...
I ...!
I ...

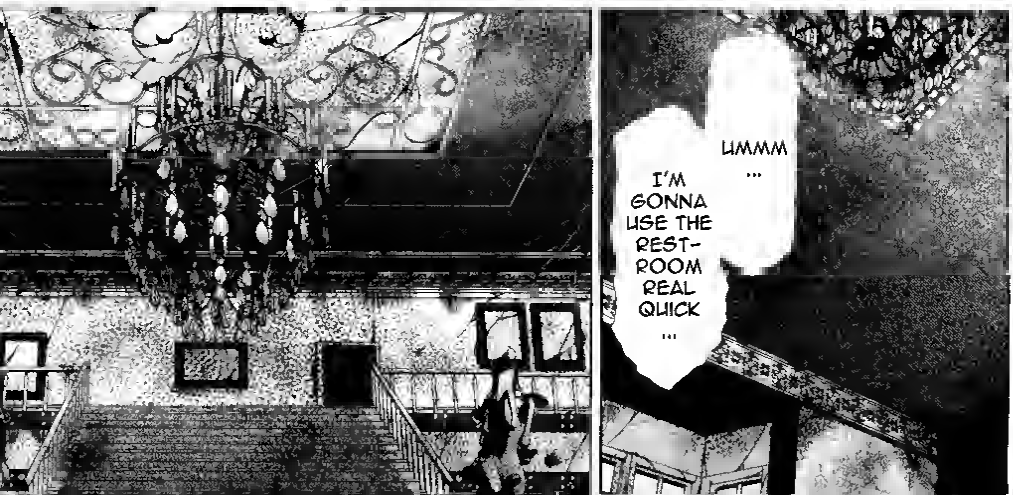
PLEASE, HEAR ME OUT, KAZUMA!
THAT'S ENOUGH, EMIRU!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANY MORE!
I'LL FALL ...
DEEP, BLACK ...
NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS,
NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL IT IS,
IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT IT
IF YOU DON'T ACKNOW-LEDGE THAT TRUTH,

INTO
THE
DARKNESS
...
EMIRU!

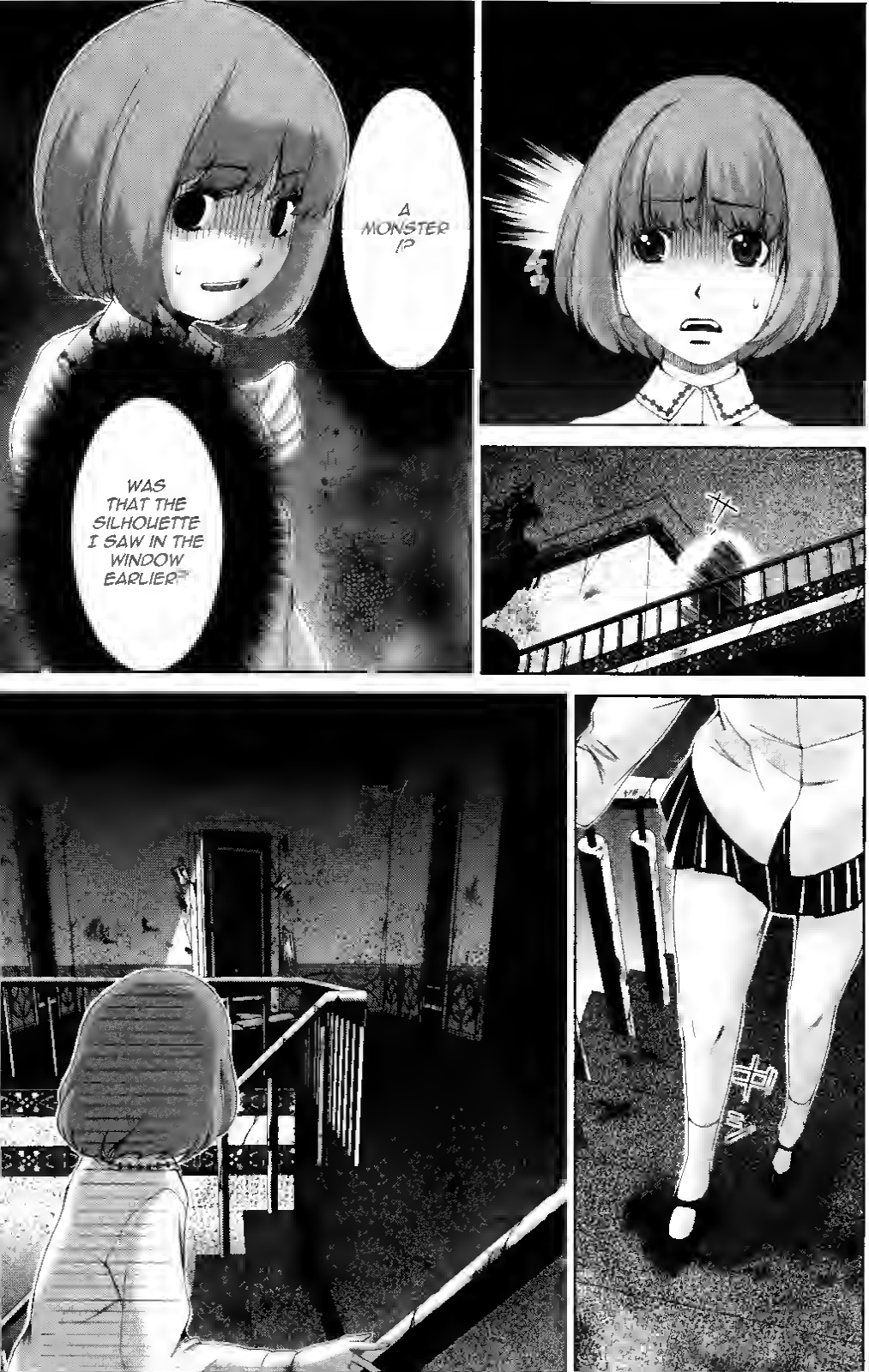

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

HOW COULD SUCH A SMALL CHILD
CONSIDER SOMETHING LIKE SUICIDE ...
OF COURSE SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANT TO DIE.
BUT IT DIDN'T END BADLY,
DID IT?
EMIRU DESPERATELY WANTED TO SEE HER PARENTS,
SO SHE PRETENDED TO COMMIT SUICIDE TO GO TO HEAVEN.
NO...
IT WASN'T FATAL.

EMIRU DIDN'T DIE.
BUT THAT FACT ITSELF WAS WHAT GAVE RISE TO HER DESPAIR.


UMMM ...
I'M GONNA USE THE REST-ROOM REAL QUICK ...

I'M SO CONFUSED!
HIS STORY'S SO INCONSIST-ENT, IT'S ALL OVER THE PLACE!
AND 'DESPAIR' IS SUCH AN ABSTRACT IDEA ANYWAY ...
I HOPE IT'S NOT THE CASE,
BUT MAYBE IT'S ALL PROFESSOR FUTABA'S DELUSION ...


A MONSTER!?
WAS THAT THE SILHOUETTE I SAW IN THE WINDOW EARLIER?
ヒタ

I'VE HAD ENOUGH
OF THIS WHOLE SITUATION!

IS THAT THE SEALED OFF ROOM!?

WHAT IS TRUE DESPAIR TO A PERSON?

IN "THE SICKNESS UNTO DEATH," KIERKEGAARD WRITES,

"SHE" WASN'T REALLY HERSELF...

MY NAME'S EMIRU ARIGA.

NICE TO MEET YOU!

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CHAPTER 11 EMIRU TODAY

SFX kyahahaha

BUT A MONSTER REALLY USED TO APPEAR IN THIS HOUSE YOU KNOW!
ESPECIALLY IN THIS ROOM, WHEN EMIRU WAS LITTLE ...
WH- WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
HEY ...
SFX Thump

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
MINAMI?
GOOD AFTER-NOON!
HEY THERE ...

SHE COLLAPSED WHEN I PUSHED HER.
EHM ...
DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE THE PERSON I BROUGHT WITH ME?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
HER?
GOOD, SHE'S ALRIGHT.
SHE'S JUST UNCON-SCIOUS.
HEY!
I'M SORRY! IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE!

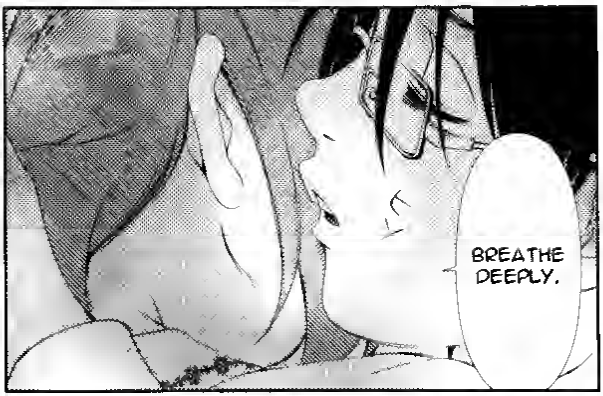
I GET THE FEELING THAT I'VE MET YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
DO YOU KNOW ME?
WHO...
ARE YOU?
NO.
HUH?
WHAT AM I DOING?

HE SEEMS LIKE A COLD PERSON, BUT HE'S AN EXCELLENT COUNSELOR WHOM I'VE SECRETELY ADMIRED
THAT'S RIGHT PROFESSOR FUTABA
UGH... WHAT HAPPENED? I FEEL AWFUL
I WAS FEELING LUCKY THAT I'D GOTTEN TO PARTICIPATE IN HIS SEMINAR
AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN
AND THEN
THAT'S RIGHT... THE GRAVE
AND THEN

ARE YOU AWAKE NOW?
MINAMI.
PROF-ESSOR FUTABA ...
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?
STOP HIDING THINGS ...
TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!
SHE'S ALIVE AFTER ALL!
IT'S EMIRU!

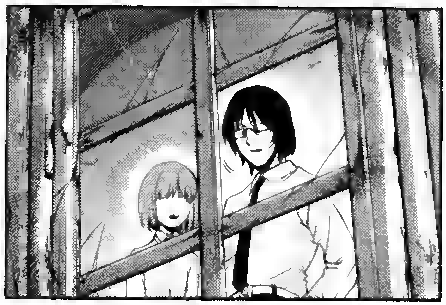
I'M SORRY. IT'LL BE ALRIGHT NOW.
CALM DOWN.

IT REACHES STRAIGHT TO THE HEART.
IT'S A KIND VOICE.


BREATHE DEEPLY.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIS VOICE.
AHH...

UMM
...
WHAT ABOUT EMIRU?



I-I'M ALRIGHT. I'M OKAY NOW.
I'M SORRY FOR GETTING WORKED UP.

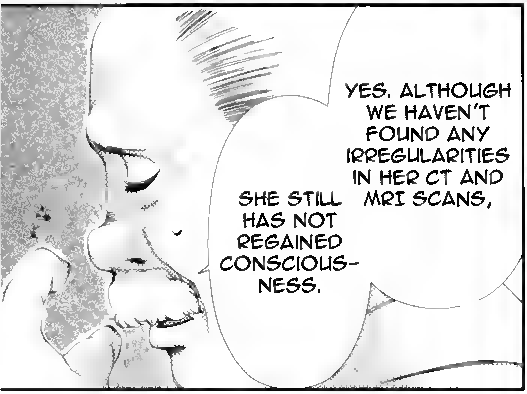
PROFESSOR FUTABA,
THAT PERSON IS DEFINITELY THE REAL EMIRU, ISN'T SHE?
YES, THAT'S HER IN THE FLESH.
THAT GIRL IS EMIRU ARISA.
THEN WHAT ABOUT THAT GRAVE?
DID YOU MAKE UP EVERYTHING YOU'VE TOLD ME UP UNTIL NOW?
NO!
THAT'S HER GRAVE!
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CALL HER EMIRU ...

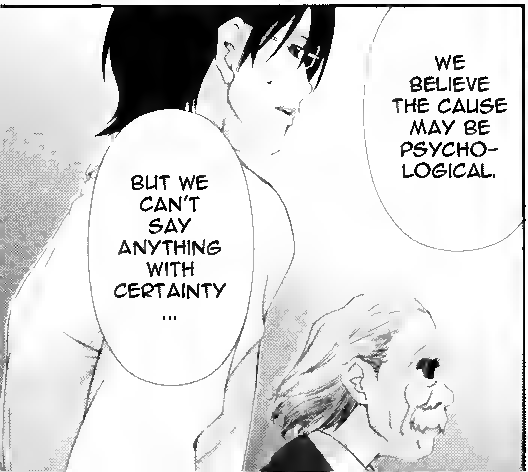
THAT'S BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T HAVE A NAME OF HER OWN.
SHE WASN'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGED AS A PERSON, MUCH LESS AS SOMEONE WORTH NAMING.
A PITIABLE BEING.
THAT IS WHO SHE WAS.
THAT'S THE GIRL I FELL IN LOVE WITH.

BUT IF THAT GIRL IS THE REAL EMIRU
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
I'M NOT COMPLETELY SURE, BUT THAT GIRL
SEEMS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE EMIRU THAT PROFESSOR FUTABA SPOKE OF
UMM ...
IF YOU DON'T MIND,
COULD YOU TELL ME THE REST OF WHAT HAPPENED?

SHE COLLAPSED IN THE PARK BECAUSE OF A PSYCHOGENIC SEIZURE.
THANKFULLY, IT WASN'T LIFE-THREATENING.
HOW-EVER ...

Sign: Hakusen Hospital





MISS ARIGA, I'M HERE TO TAKE YOUR TEMP-ERATURE ...
I'LL DO IT.
HUH?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER BODY.

I CORNERED HER!
THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE
SOME COUNSELING THIS TURNED OUT TO BE...
THIS IS MY FAULT ...
IT'S MY FAULT!
I'M SORRY, EMIRU.

EMIRU
...

WITHOUT A NAME, WITHOUT A FACE

A DISGUSTING MONSTER
...

WHEN DADDY IGNORES ME. .
WHEN I GET LOCKED IN THIS ROOM. .
WHEN I IMAGINE UNPLEASANT THINGS. .
IT ALWAYS STARES AT ME SO ENVIOUSLY.
IF YOU'RE SO ENVIOUS, I'LL LET YOU TRADE PLACES WITH ME.
I'LL DIE . . .
AND I'LL GO TO WHERE MOMMY AND DADDY ARE.

-THAT SHARPEN ITSELF.

-FROM WHICH THERE IS NO SALVATION.

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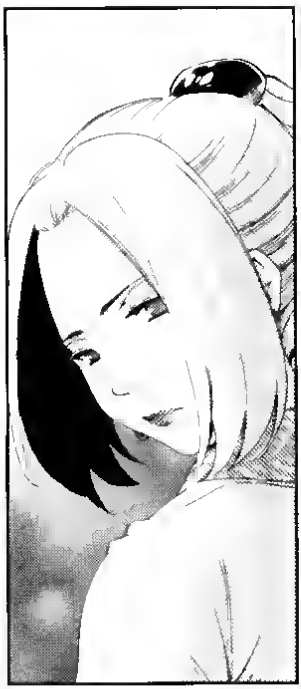
CHAPTER 12 THE REAL SELF

WHAT? YOU'RE QUITTING SCHOOL!?
IT'S NOT EVEN SUMMER BREAK YET!
WHAT'S GOING ON, FUTABA?
AT LEAST GIVE ME AN EXPLAIN-ATION!

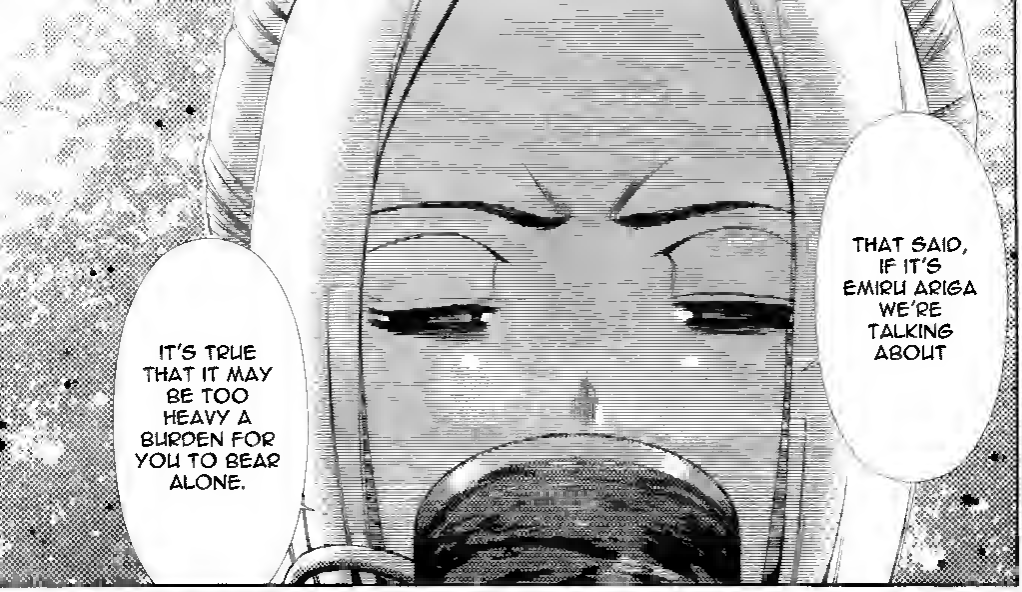
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GONE THROUGH A LOT.

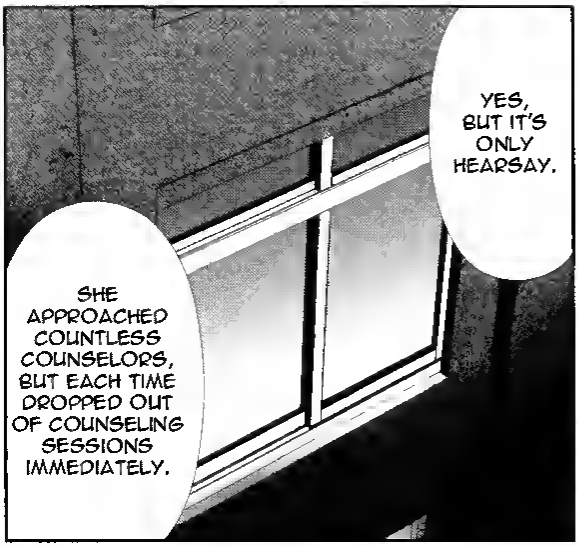
I'M NOT QUAL-IFIED
TO BE A COUN-SELOR,



IT'S ALL MY FAULT. I TRIED COUNSELING EVEN THOUGH I'M JUST AN AMATEUR.
AND ON TOP OF THAT I CORNERED HER BECAUSE I COULDN'T CONTROL MY EMOTIONS.

HUH?
IT'S COMPLETELY NATURAL TO WANT TO SAVE THE ONE YOU LOVE!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF YOU'RE AN AMATEUR?
ORIGINALLY PEOPLE WOULD TALK ABOUT THEIR WORRIES TO THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.
THE REASON COUNSELLING IS INCREASINGLY IN DEMAND IS THAT THOSE KIND OF RELATIONSHIPS ARE BECOMING MORE RARE.
BUT OF COURSE, THE MORE SPECIALIZED CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE SOMEONE HAS,
THE MORE THEY HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.


IT'S TRUE THAT IT MAY BE TOO HEAVY A BURDEN FOR YOU TO BEAR ALONE.
THAT SAID, IF IT'S EMIRU ARIGA WE'RE TALKING ABOUT


YES, BUT IT'S ONLY HEARSAY.
SHE APPROACHED COUNTLESS COUNSELORS, BUT EACH TIME DROPPED OUT OF COUNSELING SESSIONS IMMEDIATELY.

YOU KNOW ABOUT EMIRU?

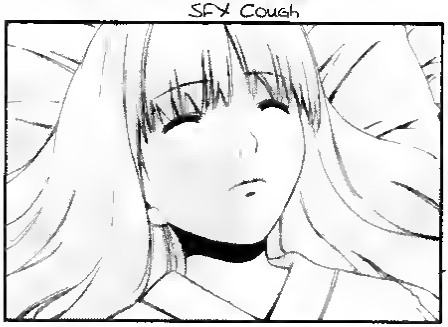
ARE YOU GOING TO QUIT IN SPITE OF ALL THAT?

AND SOUGHT HELP FROM!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE SHE HAS OPENED HER HEART TO...

BUT SHE
STILL HASN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS.
JUST TRY TALKING TO HER.
HUH?
SHE CAN STILL HEAR YOU EVEN IF SHE'S NOT CONSCIOUS.
AND KAZUMA,
YOU HAVE A GREAT VOICE!

MY VOICE?
YES. A CERTAIN TYPE OF VOICE THAT HAS THE POWER TO REACH A PERSON'S HEART.
APPARENTLY IT'S COMMON AMONG POLITICIANS AND SINGERS.
WITH YOUR VOICE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO REACH HER EVEN WHILE SHE'S IN A COMATOSE STATE.
AND ONCE SHE REGAINS CONCIOUSNESS,
I'LL ASSIST YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
SO RESUME YOUR COUNSELING!
YOU LOVE THAT GIRL,
DON'T YOU?

ゴホン
SFX Cough



I'LL SWITCH WITH YOU, KURAMOTO.
GO HOME AND GET SOME REST.
KAZUMA ...

ON THE DAY WE FIRST MET
EMIRU ...
YOU TOLD ME TO LISTEN TO YOUR HEART LIKE THIS.
AND YOU SAID, "I'M STILL ALIVE EVEN AFTER MY BODY'S BECOME LIKE THIS. WHY IS THAT?"

TRY TO TALK TO HER ...

I HEAR THE VOICE OF SOMEONE I DON'T KNOW...

CALLING OUT TO EMIRU...

THANK GOODNESS, EMIRU!
EMIRU!
.....
E-EMIRU?
YOU'RE CONSCIOUS?

WHO'RE
YOU?

I WAS TAKING A NAPPY-NAP AT HOME
WHERE AM I?

E-EMIRU?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I'M...

COULD SHE HAVE REGRESSED TO HER CHILDHOOD?
WHERE'S UNCLE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER? IT'S AS IF SHE'S A CHILD.

HE'S NOT HERE?
THEN, WHAT ABOUT THE MONSTER?

DO YOU MEAN KURAMOTO? HE'S BACK AT THE MANSION ...
BUT WHY, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

MONSTER ?
YUP. THE MONSTER WITHOUT A NAME OR FACE
... STOP ...
IT'S DISGUSTING SO I WAS SCARED
BUT I FELT SORRY FOR IT.
SO I THOUGHT I'D BECOME ITS ...
FRIEND ...
STOP ...
STOP ...
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
EMI-RU !?
.....

I'M...?
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...
I'M...
I TRIED TALKING TO HER,
BUT IT'S AS IF I WASN'T EVEN THERE.

THAT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE. SHE LOST HER FATHER RIGHT AFTER HER MOTHER.
WHAT'S ... MY NAME?
IT'S LIKELY A TEMPORARY CONDITION BROUGHT ON BY PSYCHO-LOGICAL SHOCK.
COME ALONG NOW, LADY EMIRU.
I'M ...
WHO AM I?
LADY?
OKAY, I REMEMBER NOW. I'M ..
EMIRU?
ハッ！

EMIRU!
EMIRU ARIGA
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M EMIRU.

I'M THE ONE WHO'S EMIRU !
SINCE THAT DAY I'VE LIVED AS EMIRU.
I'M EMIRU!
SO WHAT AM I SAYING NOW... OF ALL TIMES?
.....

EMIRU ?
KAZUMA.
I CAN'T ACCEPT IT.
AHH ...
IF THAT'S NOT TRUE,
WHAT HAS MY LIFE BEEN UP UNTIL NOW?
AHH ...
AHH ...
I WON'T ACCEPT IT, EVEN IF IT KILLS ME.
PLEASE HUG ME!
THE IDEA THAT I'M NOT THE REAL ME ...

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CHAPTER 13 THEIR DETERMINATION

SEPT-
EMBER
A
NEW
SEMES-
TER
WOW, YOU'RE REALLY SUN-BURNED!
I WAS SURF-BOARDING IN OKINAWA THE WHOLE TIME.
ALL I DID WAS WORK PART TIME.
HEY.
FUTABA.

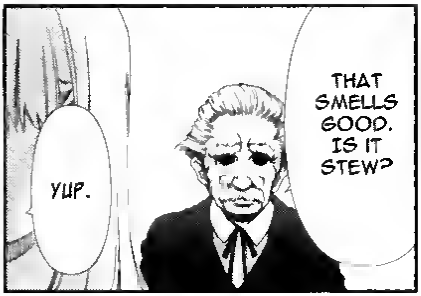
FOR THE PAST MONTH
AFTER EMIRU CAME BACK TO THE MANSION, I SPENT EVERY DAY DOING NOTHING BUT ENTWINING MY BODY WITH HERS.
YOU SEEM DIFFERENT.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING OVER SUMMER BREAK?
YOU DIDN'T COME TO ANY GATHERINGS PEOPLE FROM CLASS HAD.
WELL, MY GIRLFRIEND AND I ...
DON'T GET ALL LOVEY-DOVEY!
AGAIN AND AGAIN, WE SOUGHT EACH OTHER OUT.
WHEN ONE OF US TRIED TO SPEAK,
THE OTHER WOULD LOCK MOUTHS.

ALL THE WHILE,
EACH OF US TOOK THE GREATEST CARE
NOT TO TOUCH THE OTHER'S HEART.
EMIRU IS CALMING DOWN,
SO THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW.
FUTABA ...

PROF-
ESSOR
OOTSU-
KI.
YOU
HAVEN'T
CONTACTED
ME AT ALL
SINCE THEN.
HOW
IS SHE?
WELL,
THERE
AREN'T
ANY BIG
PROBLEMS
RIGHT NOW.
OH?
I'M
GLAD
TO HEAR
THAT.
IF YOU
EVER DECIDE
TO RUN
AWAY
THERE
WON'T BE
ANYONE LEFT
WHO'LL
UNDERSTAND
HER PAIN.
JUST
DON'T
FORGET
THAT.

ゴロ
ゴロ

I ALREADY KNOW THAT.


THAT SMELLS GOOD. IS IT STEW?
YUP.

KAZUMA SAYS HE DOESN'T LIKE MEAT,
SO IT'S VEGETARIAN.

I HOPE IT TURNS OUT WELL.
UM, LADY ...
I'M FINE RIGHT NOW,
I WANT TO TREASURE MY TIME WITH HIM
PLEASE, MAKE SURE NOT TO PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION
AND OUR HEARTS NEVER ACTUALLY MEET.

IT'S REALLY POURING DOWN.
THE MONSTER TRAILING EMIRU ...
THE REGRESSION TO HER CHILDHOOD SHE HAD AT THE HOSPITAL ...
BUT THAT'S ACTUALLY TO MY ADVANT-AGE
THE RAIN WILL MASK THE NOISE I MAKE
THE CAUSE OF ALL OF IT
SHOULD BE IN THAT ROOM.

INSIDE
OF THAT SEALED-OFF ROOM
I KNOW WE CAN'T KEEP GOING THE WAY WE ARE!
WE HAVEN'T REACHED ANY KIND OF UNDERSTANDING.
AS PROOF,
NO MATTER HOW STRONGLY, HOW ROUGHLY I EMBRACE HER
THE ONLY THING WE'RE ALWAYS LEFT WITH IS

ARGH ...
FUTILITY!
IT'S OPEN.
UGH ...
IT STINKS OF MOLD.

IT COULDN'T BE.
EMIRU?
E...

IT'S A DOLL?
WHAT'S WITH THIS DOLL?
IT LOOKS ...
JUST LIKE EMIRU
HN

T/N Note
Sound of heavy breathing

A M...
MON-STER ?
IT'S THE SAME PICTURE
THAT WAS DRAWN IN EMIRU'S ROOM!

ヒヒ
SO THAT DRAWING FROM BEFORE
WAS EMIIRU'S DOING AFTER ALL...
コツ
コツ
.....
SOME-ONE'S COMING

EMIRU?
PLEASE.
PLEASE,
GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME.
I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO SOMETHING.
SHE HASN'T NOTICED ME?
THEN WHO ...

I KNOW IT'S SELFISH OF ME.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE REAL ME ...
I COULD NEVER ACCEPT IT.
I SUFFERED BECAUSE I WOULDN'T ACKNOW-LEDGE IT.
BUT ONCE I FOUND SOMEONE I LOVED, I UNDERSTOOD!
HIS NAME IS KAZUMA.
HE SAYS HE LOVES ME, TOO.
BUT NO MATTER HOW SWEET THE THINGS HE WHISPERS TO ME ARE,
THEY'RE NOT DIRECTED AT THE REAL ME.
I DON'T WANT HIM TO HATE ME.
BUT THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE HOPELESS IT GETS.

EVEN IF IT COSTS ME EVERYTHING!
I WANT TO GIVE HIM ALL OF MYSELF.
I WANT TO SHOW HIM ALL OF MYSELF.
I WANT US TO BE ABLE TO LOVE EACH OTHER FROM THE HEART.

I WANT US TO BE ABLE TO LOVE EACH OTHER FROM THE HEART.

EVEN IF IT COSTS ME EVERYTHING!
I WANT TO SHOW HIM ALL OF MYSELF.
I WANT TO GIVE HIM ALL OF MYSELF.

SFX: Creak
EMIRU ...
GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME.
SO PLEASE.
EVEN IF IT MEANS I'LL LOSE HIM.

I'LL TRY TO ACCEPT YOU
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
I UNDERSTAND I WON'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE EITHER

Hidoi~! Translators

MADOKA=MAGICA

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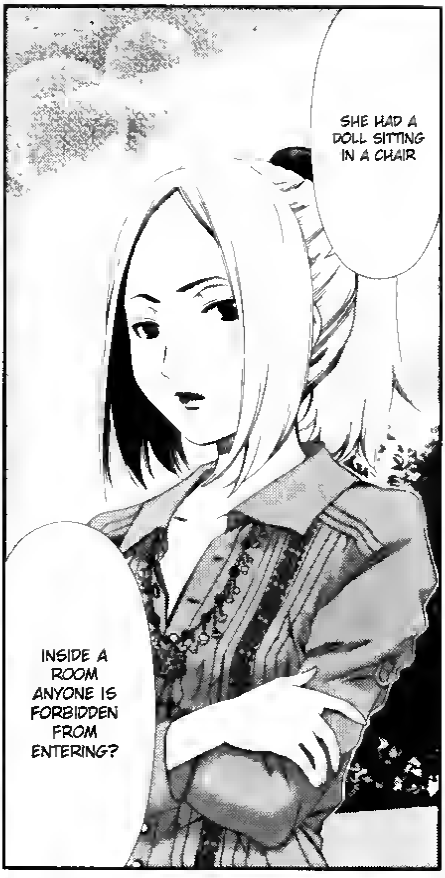
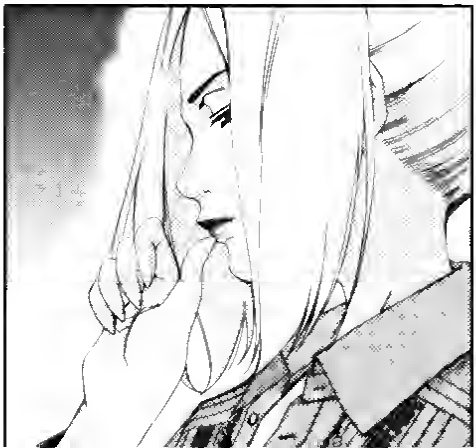
NOTICE!?
ALRIGHT LATELY, WE BEEN NOTICING THAT SOME ONLINE VIEWING SITES DON'T FOLLOW OUR RULES *MUMBLES*
- WE ASK FOR A 3 DAYS DELAY PERIOD BEFORE YOU HOST ANY OF OUR RELEASES. ON YOUR ONLINE VIEWING OR DDL SITE.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF THIS RULE WAS NOT IGNORED.
HIDOI TRANSLATORS
WWW.SAKURAHANA.COM
FOR MORE UPDATES ON OUR PROJECTS, RELEASES AND RANTS FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
HTTP://TWITTER.COM/SAKURAHANAFORUM

CH.14 - A FLOWER WITHOUT PETALS

YES
...
SHE WAS TALKING TO THE DOLL AS IF THAT DOLL WAS HERSELF...


SHE HAD A DOLL SITTING IN A CHAIR
INSIDE A ROOM ANYONE IS FORBIDDEN FROM ENTERING?



"EMPTY CHAIR"...?
YES, IT'S JUST AS IT SOUNDS
PERHAPS...
THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HER OWN VARIETY OF THE "EMPTY CHAIR"...
THE PATIENT BASICALLY TALKS TO THEMSELF IN ORDER TO SORT OUT THIER EMOTIONS
IT'S OFTEN USED TO HELP PATIENTS COPE WITH THIER DAILY LIVES...
AN EMPTY CHAIR IS PLACED IN FRONT OF YOU, AND THE PERSON SITTING IN THAT CHAIR ACROSS FROM YOU IS YOURSELF.

IS THERE ANY-THING ELSE YOU CAN TELL ME?
IF SHE'S GONE AS FAR AS TO HAVE A DOLL SIT IN THE CHAIR THEN
HER EMOTIONAL ISSUES MIGHT BE DEEPER THAN I THOUGHT
OH— BY THE WAY, OOTSUKI-SENSEI
ABOUT KI-ERKEGAARD'S "THE SICKNESS UNTO DEATH"
NO, SORRY
THANK YOU.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME THEN

In "The Sickness Unto Death", Kierkegaard wrote about humanity's concept of despair.
I've only had time to glance at it
Would you mind if I borrowed it just a little bit longer?
Not at all
That it was a simple truth of humanity ——
Sorry about the wait!
His explanations are vague,
But to put it modernistically
Not wanting to be one's self and being unable to change that.
Being bound by one's helplessness is despair.

IT'S THE DISOCIATION OF ONE'S SELF FROM ONE'S SELF.
IN SHORT, AN IDENTITY CRISIS---
IT'S NOT THAT I REFUSE TO UNDERSTAND IT...
I WANT TO UNDERSTAND IT BUT...
WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
NO ...

THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S ONLY AROUND THIS SEASON...

I'M SURPRISED
IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO SAY THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SHOW ME

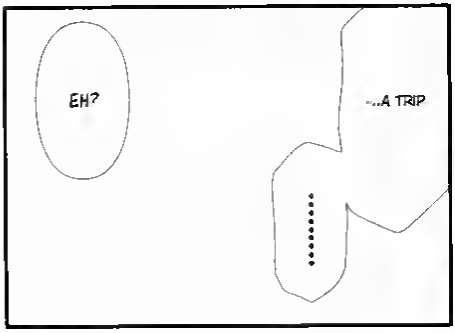
HUH?
AND I ALSO WANTED TO TAKE A WALK OUTSIDE
AND TALK WITH YOU, KAZUMA-KUN

MY CHILD-HOOD?
LET ME THINK...
I WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO ACT LIKE AN ADULT
I WASN'T CUTE AT ALL WHEN I WAS KID
ANY-WAYS
KAZU-MA-KUN!
TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CHILD HOOD
*SFX: KUSU = LAUGH
HMMM...
HEY— IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE FUNNY?
I CAN DEFI-NATELY SEE YOU THAT WAY!

I WAS LIKE A ZOMBIE... ONLY LIVING TO PLEASE OTHERS
MY FATHER WAS A VERY SERIOUS MAN SO I GREW UP IN A STRICT HOUSEHOLD.
I WAS ALSO PRESSURED TO LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF EVERYONE AROUND ME
TRYING TO ACT LIKE THE PERFECT SON...
TO BE HONEST, I EXHAUSTED MYSELF

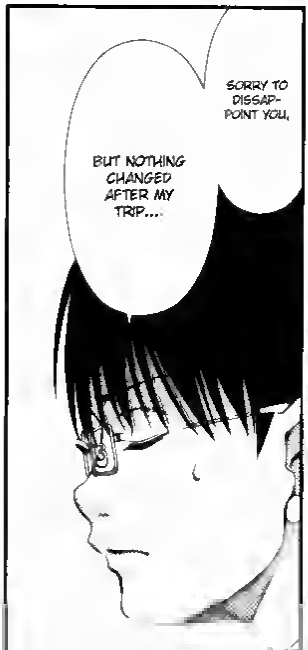
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN...?

BUT THAT ALL FELL TO PIECES IN MY SECOND YEAR OF HIGHSCHOOL...


EH?
...A TRIP
.....

DON'T LAUGH!
AMAZ-ING~~!
THAT'S LIKE WHAT THAT SOCCER PLAYER DID~~~!
*SFX: KUSU = LAUGHING

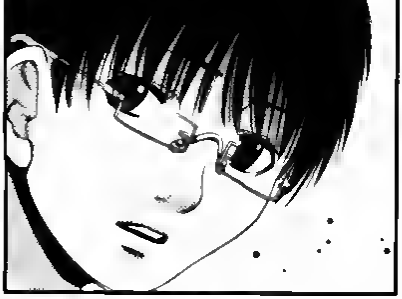
IT'S EM-BARASSING TO SAY THIS...
BUT I WENT ON A TRIP OF SELF DISCOV-ERY.

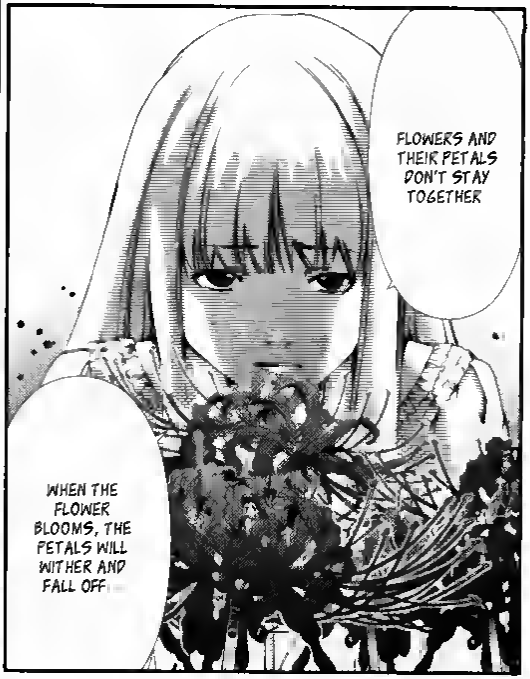

SORRY TO DISSAP-POINT YOU,
BUT NOTHING CHANGED AFTER MY TRIP....

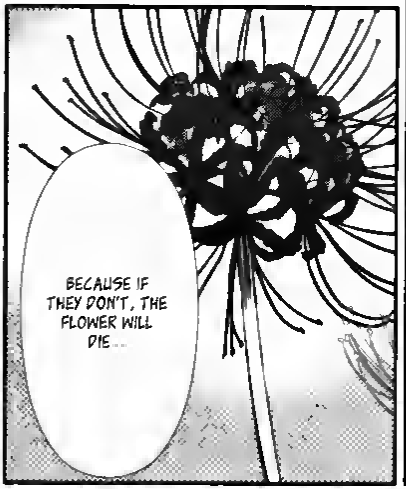
I KNEW YOU'D MAKE FUN OF ME!
SO DID YOU GO TO THE SEA AND REALIZE THAT YOUR JUST A SMALL PART OF THIS BIG WORLD~~?
DID A KIND STRANGER'S KINDNESS MAKE YOU REALIZE THAT THIS WORLD IS WORTH LIVING IN~~~?

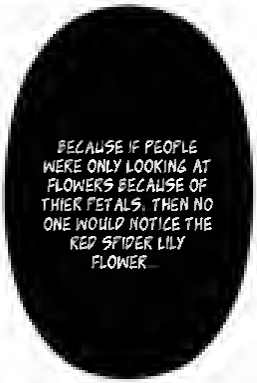
I WOULD'VE BEEN HELPLESS IF I TRIED TO ACT ANY DIFFERENTLY...
THE ONLY THING I REALIZED AFTER TAKING THE TRIP WAS HOW WEAK I WAS...
I WAS STILL THE SAME OLD "PERFECT SON" I'D ALWAYS BEEN...
I WAS STUCK IN THE "SHELL" THAT I HAD CREATED...
WE'RE HERE THIS IS THE PARK
SO WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME HERE?
THE FLOWERS...

THESE ARE...
RED SPIDER LILIES...
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL AREN'T THEY?
Y... YEAH...
RED SPIDER LILY FLOWERS ARE SO MYSTERIOUS.
SEE? THEY DON'T HAVE ANY PETALS.




FLOWERS AND THEIR PETALS DON'T STAY TOGETHER
WHEN THE FLOWER BLOOMS, THE PETALS WILL WITHER AND FALL OFF...


BECAUSE IF THEY DON'T, THE FLOWER WILL DIE...

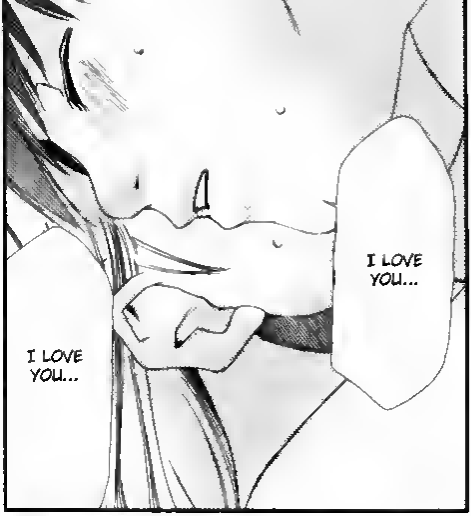

BECAUSE IF PEOPLE WERE ONLY LOOKING AT FLOWERS BECAUSE OF THIER PETALS, THEN NO ONE WOULD NOTICE THE RED SPIDER LILY FLOWER...

OF COURSE THE FLOWER IS THE MAIN ATTRACTION.
PEOPLE DON'T VIEW FLOWERS TO LOOK AT THIER PETALS...

IF NO ONE NOTICES THAT YOU EXIST,
THEN IT'S THE SAME AS NOT EXISTING AT ALL
THAT'S RIGHT...
THAT'S WHAT I'M TRULY AFRAID OFF...
THE TRUE FORM OF WHAT THAT DEEP DARKNESS REPRESENTS...!
EMIRU..?
KAZUMA-KUN.
PLEASE LOOK AT ME..!!

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING AT YOU...
SINCE THE MOMENT I FIRST SAW YOU, YOU'VE BEEN THE ONLY THING I THINK OF...!!

SO WHY ARE YOU STILL CRYING...?



*SFX POKE

.....

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD IT
HURRY UP AND TAKE ME THERE!!!

*SFX: PULL

EMIRU!?

I NEED TO PEE—
HUH—?
YOU NEED THE BATH-ROOM?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
DID HER PSYCHE REVERT BACK TO A LITTLE KID?!
A ALRI GHT...
JUST A MINUTE
NO...
IS THAT REALLY WHAT'S GOING ON?
FORGET THE WAY SHE'S ACTING OR HER MANNER OF SPEECH...
I HAVE THE SAME UNEASY FEELING THAT I HAD WHEN SHE WAS IN THE HOSPI-TAL...
SHE'S ACTING COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT
FROM THE EMIRU THAT I KNOW
YOU'RE... STILL EMIRU, AREN'T YOU...?

"FLOWERS AND THIER PETALS DON'T STAY TOGETHER".
YUP...
MY NAME'S EMIRU—
I'M 4 YEARS OLD~!
SHE'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON!
"WHEN THE FLOWER BLOOMS ----
THE PETALS WILL WITHER---"

Hidoi~! Translators
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